

CHICAGO FANS GRIEVE MOST FOR WEAVER AND STILL HOPE FOR HIM

**Buck Was Idol of South Side
Rooters, Who Can't Yet
Make Themselves Believe
He Belongs With Outcasts.**

By OSCAR C. REICHOW.

CHICAGO, Oct. 20.—What Buck Weaver is alleged to have done in the world's series games of 1919 between the White Sox and the Cincinnati Reds has shattered the local fans' faith in baseball as much, if not more, than anything that has happened out of the scandal. Weaver's connection—which he denies—with the affair has been a severe jolt to the fans who were not only surprised but shocked when his name was mentioned. They could hardly believe it and there are many here today who still believe he was not a party to throwing any games to the Reds.

Weaver's Name Not in Gossip.

Throughout the summer there were rumors going about that the series of 1919 had been framed. Naturally guesses were made as to which of the White Sox players were guilty. Weaver's name was one that never mentioned. Fans thought it impossible that he would figure in any such rotten affair like that, knowing his disposition to fight for ball games every second he was on the diamond. They refused to link his name with the scandal in any way, and therefore were stunned when his name was involved by the players who confessed their guilt. Weaver insists that he is innocent. Nothing could be more pleasing to the followers of baseball in Chicago, but they declare he made the mistake of his life when he did not rush up to President Comiskey after the first game was played in Cincinnati and explain to him what was being pulled off, if he knew what was being done, and it is said he did. He should have protected the fair name of the national game and at the same time kept the finger of suspicion from pointing strongly at him. In addition he could have saved his reputation, moral character and decency of the players who are now out of baseball for all time.

The only way I can figure Weaver's attitude last fall, if he knew what was on the fire, is that he did not possess the courage to go to the front and uncover the dishonest men on his team. That, in my opinion, is the trouble with many ball players. They lack the guts. They should not fear. If they know that certain players are in collusion with gamblers and tip it off to the clubowners they will be protected in every way. Not only will they receive the strongest support from the leagues, but they will have the backing of the fans who admire a man for his nerve in turning up a crook.

The situation here is a queer one. It surely has a fellow thinking which way to jump. One can hardly deny that President Comiskey had a strong suspicion, and possibly knowledge, that something was radically wrong in the playing of the world's series. It has come out in testimony given by President Heydler of the National League that he was told by Comiskey that the games looked bad to him. Manager Gleason also had a hunch something was wrong. He, too, went to Comiskey. Yet they permitted the series to finish with the players still in the game, that surely does not sound good.

I have talked to several baseball magnates and managers since and have asked them what they would have done had they been confronted with the same situation. They all replied they would have taken every man at whom the finger of suspicion pointed and yanked him out of the game. In my opinion that is what should have been done. I am compelled to criticize Comiskey for not doing it and for letting these players stay on his team this season. They should not have been permitted to put on a uniform on any team, considering the clouds that hung over their heads. I am inclined to feel that Comiskey and Gleason knew enough after their investigations which they said they made, to step out publicly and say these were the men accused, and although nothing tangible had been obtained, enough had been found to keep them out of baseball.

"What would have happened had

that been done?" one might ask. It is a good bet that one of the eight players mentioned in the scandal would have stepped forth and coughed up everything that had since been printed about the scandal.

That that would have taken place is almost a cinch. Three of the players, through fear of going to jail as much as anything, lost no time in rushing to the prosecuting attorney's office to make a confession when they learned the jig was up. What would have happened then from doing the same last winter or spring? Not a thing.

Poor Alibi for Comiskey.

Comiskey, I think, erred when he did not bring the matter before the annual meeting of the American league and insist that the league itself take some drastic action. He should not have permitted his un-friendliness with President Ban Johnson to stand in his way. That is a poor alibi. He had too much at stake to even think of that. He should have gone into the gathering with the bit between his teeth and said: "Gentlemen, here are the facts. Get busy. Let's have some action. Baseball is being wrecked by a lot of piker gamblers and something must be done whether it wrecks my ball team or not."

What would have been the result? I think the American league club owners would have lauded Comiskey for his stand, and baseball today would be in a position to hold up its head and defy the world.

Comiskey let the affair drag. Perhaps he was justified. Throughout the winter he denied everything relative to scandal and said he could obtain nothing that would permit him to take action against his players. I do not question his honesty. At the same time I believe, although he probably cleared nearly half a million dollars this year, that it would have been to his best interests to rid his team of players who were under suspicion. No doubt he would have had to do a lot of reconstructing the same as he does now, but the people of Chicago would have admired him the more for it.

There were ball players on the club who hated to be associated with guilty players. See it now. When he traveled with the team at the tail end of the season I noticed the honest players kept themselves free of the men accused of throwing the world's series to the Reds. There were two distinct factions on the team—honest and dishonest. Two of the players, Eddie Collins and Ray Schalk, seldom if ever spoke to any of the others except on the diamond when it was necessary, and then they did as little as possible. I do not recall having seen either one talk to any of the players mentioned in confessions made by Clifton, Jackson and Williams.

Rough Road for Eddie Collins.

Eddie Collins is on the square more ways than one. It was a rough and rugged road for him to play on that ball team all year and not throw up his hands in disgust. The same can be said for Schalk. Reports have it that Collins went to President Comiskey after the White Sox returned from their last Eastern trip and informed him he thought something crooked was going on. It is believed he had reference to something that happened in two ball games in Boston in August. I saw Collins in New York recently and asked him whether this was true. I am going to leave it to the readers to guess what he said. Collins is honorable, one of the most loyal ball players that ever put on a uniform and one who would not say a thing to injure the man who

pays the salaries of the Chicago American league team.

In justice and all fairness to Comiskey it must be said he has always played fair and has done everything within his power to boost the national game. He might have been poorly advised on the crookedness of the last winter's series with the Reds, which, I think, is probably the only reason he did not tear his ball club to shreds last winter and build up a new one for this year.

The team Ed Gleason had under his supervision this past season was one of the greatest ever formed. I believe it should have literally walked away with the championship. Why it did not, I do not care to say at this time. It was a great machine. When it was four games in front late in August I enthused over the thought that Chicago would have another championship team and could see no reason why it should not win. Then things began to happen. The White Sox did not win. They fooled the fans in Chicago with the remarkable ball they played against the New York Yankees, in which they murdered Huggins' pitchers and made a clean sweep of the series.

Fans need not worry greatly about the fate of the White Sox in seasons to come. The management will work all the harder to rebuild the team to its former greatness. There are a number of good youngsters on hand, and only the other day it was announced that Ernie Johnson, a Chi-

cago boy, who has managed the Salt Lake team this year and played wonderful ball for it at shortstop, had been purchased as part of the process of rebuilding the game left by the dismissal of the players who threw down not only Comiskey, but the national game in general.



Manager Bill Easick of Vernon makes a rather technical answer in defense of the slander suit Bill Borton has brought against him. Admitting he may have said Borton was a liar for alleging all the Vernon players, manager included, were in on the plot to buy the pennant, Easick says in his answer that he did not make the statement for publication, therefore it was not legally libel. The case will go to trial and an effort will be made to prove whether Borton is or is not a liar.

Clark Griffith of the Washington club, it develops, was named a committee of one to inspect and pass judgment on sites proposed for the new park of the Yankees in Manhattan. Since the American league agrees to help finance building the new park it will have something to say about location and plans. Three

sites are in view and Griffith will file recommendations concerning them.

The Fort Worth team, in winning both halves of the Texas league race, playing 150 games in both halves, won 25 of them by a one-run margin, but what is more interesting, in 100 of the games used only nine men, and the batting order of the team was never changed. John, a rookie pitcher, was the only addition to the team after the season started. Frank Haley was the only player to be out of the game for any extended period because of injuries, and when he was out Art Phelan, utility man, took his place in the batting order.

George Sisler day in St. Louis on Sept. 28 was a big event and even the fates were kind. Before the

game, which was attended by nearly 20,000 admirers of the brilliant first baseman of the Browns he was presented with a silver service that cost \$2,000 and various handsome and useful gifts. In his first two times at bat Sisler hit "field grounders and was out, but each out scored a run. In his third time up, however, he drove a homer to the roof of the right field pavilion and up for the fourth time hit a slashing three-bagger to deep center field on a line. His home run was his 249th hit of the season, thus breaking the record Ty Cobb made for number of hits in a season, in 1911. Governor Gardner of the state of Missouri made the presentation speech when Sisler got his silver service, and then Umpire George Moriarty made a speech upon the insistence of the chairman of the

committee in charge, extolling Sisler as a model ball player. Col. Arthur J. Donnelly, known as the Mound City's most prominent fan, was in charge of the Sisler day arrangements.

The Salt Lake club has decided that Outfielder Art Hanger will be and has made payment for his services to the Moose Jaw club. He had been bought on condition that he made good.

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